GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5715
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2007
WHO`S REPORT ON HIV/ AIDS
Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the World Health Organisation report, the number of HIV positive patients in rural areas is more that that of the urban areas in India as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated April 27, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to make special medical arrangements in rural areas in view of the WHO report;

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d) The WHO report is based on annual sentinel surveillance 2005. As per surveillance report, 58.7% of the total HIV infection are in rural areas and 41.3% are in urban areas. The higher percentage of HIV+ persons in the rural areas is due to the larger population base as compared to the urban areas.

(e) & (f) The Government of India is implementing National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) to control the spread of HIV/AIDS by up-scaling targeted interventions among the high risk groups, behaviour change communication for improved awareness specifically among women and children, expanding the preventive care, blood safety, support and treatment of HIV infected persons including treatment of opportunistic infections and provision of free antiretroviral drugs and mainstreaming HIV intervention strategies.

The facilities in the rural areas are being expanded by collaborating with the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for effective utilization of public health facilities in the sub district level.